

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 06996 221628Z

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

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SUBJECT: HIGHLIGHTS OF Q AND A FOLLOWING FAHMY STATEMENT ON
UNEF MANDATE

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PAGE 02 CAIRO 06996 221628Z

1. REPEATED QUESTIONS AT FAHMY'S NEWS CONFERENCE LAST NIGHT

(REFTEL) ON SPECIFIC ACTION EGYPT EXPECTS FROM UNSC AND ON STATUS OF UNEF ELICITED ONLY SOMEWHAT OBSCURE CLARIFICATIONS. FOLLOWING IS TRANSCRIPT OF HIGHLIGHTS OF FAHMY'S ANSWERS.

2. FAHMY STATED THAT "THE UNEF WILL CONTINUE TO FUNCTION UNTIL THE COUNCIL TAKES ITS DECISION, AND IN LIGHT OF THE COUNCIL'S DECISION, EGYPT WILL TAKE ITS FINAL DECISION" ON THE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF UNEF. ASKED IF EGYPT WOULD ALLOW UNEF TO REMAIN IN PLACE UNTIL CONCLUSION OF THE UNSC DEBATE, SHOULD DEBATE LAST BEYOND JULY 24, FAHMY REPLIED: "THIS IS SELF-EVIDENT." HOWEVER, AT ANOTHER POINT HE SAID THAT UNEF CANNOT REMAIN ON SUFFERANCE WITHOUT A SPECIFIC MANDATE. HE ALSO INDICATED THAT "THE STATUS QUO WILL CONTINUE" WITH REGARD TO EGYPTIAN FORCE LEVEL IN THE RESTRICTED FORCE ZONE IN SINAI FOR THE TIME BEING.

3. ON QUESTIONS OF SPECIFIC ACTION EGYPT EXPECTS OF UNSC, FAHMY STATED: "WHAT I MEANT IS THAT THE COUNCIL...MUST RE-EXAMINE THE SITUATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NEW DEVELOPMENTS AND MUST EXAMINE THE SITUATION IN ITS ENTIRETY AND NAMELY THE ISRAELI BEHAVIOR IN PREVENTING AND FILIBUSTERING ANY FURTHER PROGRESS TOWARDS PEACE...THE COUNCIL IN ITS WISDOM MAY...TAKE THE NECESSARY DECISION TO MAKE ISRAEL ABIDE BY THE NORMS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND RESPECT THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER...I THINK THE COUNCIL IS THE ONLY ORGAN RESPONSIBLE, ACCORDING TO THE CHARTER, FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY. NOW THE COUNCIL HAS CHAPTER 6 AND CHAPTER 7. THE COUNCIL CAN TAKE SERIOUS DECISIONS AND SHOULD TAKE SERIOUS DECISIONS, AND I DON'T BELIEVE THE COUNCIL WILL REALLY SHRINK (FROM) ITS OWN RESPONSIBILITIES. OTHERWISE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IS COMING PRETTY SOON AND THERE THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT MUST BE CHECKED COMPLETELY ONCE AND FOR ALL; AND THEY HAVE TO CHOOSE EITHER TO BE A MEMBER STATE ABIDING BY THE RULES OF THE GAME, OR OTHERWISE THE WORLD COMMUNITY AS REPRESENTED IN THE UNITED NATIONS MUST TAKE THE NECESSARY DECISIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ISRAELI BEHAVIOR.

4. FAHMY REPLIED NEGATIVELY TO QUESTION OF WHETHER EGYPTIAN MOVE RE EXTENSION OF UNEF MANDATE SIGNED UNSUCCESSFUL TERMINATION OF US EFFORT TO ACHIEVE NEW INTERIM AGREEMENT AND SAID EGYPT UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 CAIRO 06996 221628Z

WELCOMES US EFFORTS. HE EVADED QUESTIONS ON SPECIFICS OF NEW DISENGAGEMENT PROPOSALS, BUT WHEN ASKED IF EGYPT HAS "AGREED" TO THE PRESENCE OF A WARNING SYSTEM RUN BY AMERICAN EXPERTS, FAHMY SAID, "MY ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION IS NO, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE APPROVED THE PRINCIPLE OF THE PRESENCE OF THIS SYSTEM."

5. FINALLY, ASKED IF THE UNEF COULD STAY WITHOUT A

MANDATE, FAHMY SAID, "NO. IT CANNOT STAY WITHOUT A MANDATE.
HOWEVER, ARE NOT AGAINST THE PRESENCE OF THE UN
EMERGENCY FORCE IF ITS PRESENCE IS USEFUL IN SERVING
THE CAUSE OF PEACE."
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